IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An antibody which is comprised ~~has sufficient~~ of the amino acid sequence of each CDR shown below such that the antibody is capable of binding to the CD23 (FCεRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells:

RSSKSLLY KDGKTYLN	CDRL1 (SEQ ID NO:3),
LMSTRAS	CDRL2 (SEQ ID NO:5),
QQLVEYPFT	CDRL3 (SEQ ID NO:7),
GYWMS	CDRH1 (SEQ ID NO:9),
EIRLKSDNYATHYAESVKG	CDRH2 (SEQ ID NO:11), and
FID ~~FID .....~~	CDRH3 (SEQ ID NO:13).

2. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 which binds to CD23 with ~~the CD23 (FCεRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells or soluble CD23 characterised by~~ an affinity constant equal to or greater than $1x10^9$ Ka Mol^{-1}.

3. (original) An antibody which competitively inhibits the binding of an antibody having the CDR sequences set out in claim 1, to the CD23 (FCεRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells.

4. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 which is a chimeric ~~an altered~~ antibody.

5. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 [[4]] which is a humanised antibody.

6. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the framework of the heavy chain includes the amino acid residues from the murine antibody at any of positions 49, 66, 76, 77 and 94.

7. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the framework of the light chain included the amino acid residues from the ~~them~~ murine antibody at position 64.

8. (currently amended) An antibody comprising one or both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.

9. (currently amended) An antibody comprising one or both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:17 and 18.

10. (previously amended) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the constant region contains Ala at position 235 and Ala at position 237 by the Kabat numbering system.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method of ~~Use of an antibody according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the~~ treatment or prophylaxis of a disorder selected from the group consisting of arthritis, lupus erythematosus, Hashimotos thyroiditis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, uveitis, dermatitis, psoriasis, urticaria, nephrotic syndrome, glomerulonephritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, Sjogren's syndrome, allergies, allergic asthma, intrinsic asthma, acute asthmatic exacerbation, rhinitis, eczema, GVH, COPD, insulitis, bronchitis (particularly chronic bronchitis), [[or]] diabetes (particularly Type 1 diabetes), and B-cell malignancies; comprising administration of an antibody according to claim 1.

Claims 13-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended and withdrawn) A DNA sequence encoding an antibody chain which comprises one or more of the sequences according to:

CDRL1 base pair numbers 70-117 of Figure 3	(SEQ ID NOS:4),
CDRL2 base pair numbers 163-183 of Figure 3	(SEQ ID NOS:6),
CDRL3 base pair numbers 280-306 of Figure 3	(SEQ ID NOS:8),
CDRH1 base pair numbers 91-105 of Figure 4	(SEQ ID NOS:10),
CDRH2 base pair numbers 148-204 of Figure 4	(SEQ ID NOS:12), and
CDRH3 base pair numbers 301-309 of Figure 4	(SEQ ID NOS:14).

16. (withdrawn) DNA sequence encoding an antibody chain which comprises one or both of the sequences encoding of the sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.

17. (withdrawn) A DNA sequence encoding an antibody chain which comprises one or both of the sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:17 and 18.

18. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an antibody as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an antibody as defined in claim 1 in combination with an immunomodulatory or anti-inflammatory agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (new) A method of selecting an inhibitory antibody comprising:
(a) providing an antibody according to claim 1 specific for CD23 and
(b) selecting an inhibitory antibody which competes with said CD23-specific antibody for binding to CD23.